

Missing Portion of Brain in Man Renews Old Scientific Argument

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York—A man who lived 76 years in good physical and mental health was missing a part of his brain, according to physicians who investigated the unusual case.

The brain segment had been missing all his life, evidently, for there was no trace of it. Existing knowledge of such matters indicated the brain part simply had failed to develop (for unknown reasons) during the fourth month of his prenatal life when it should have developed.

This accidental discovery has renewed a very old scientific argument over how much of a brain a human being needs in order to move about, think, behave, and feel within what science calls "normal limits." The newest conclusion drawn from the newest incident is that a human being can do all those things without a corpus callosum.

Corpus Callosum Missing

The corpus callosum is a structure of nerve fibers which connects the two hemispheres of the brain. Merely to look at one would cause you to think it essential for brain function if not for life. Indeed, ancient anatomists were enough impressed to call it "the seat of the soul."

Drs. Ursula T. Slager, Alma B. Kelly, and John A. Wagner of Baltimore were impressed by its absence in a man who had lived so many years without giving any indication of having less than a whole brain. They found that the first such case was discovered in 1912, and since then there have been 123 more proven after death and reported in "the literature."

Of these persons with incomplete brains, only 23 had given no sign during life of their deficiency. The new case was the 16th of it being found in an adult who in life had been apparently normal. Previous anatomical explorers were unable to make anything hard and fast out of what it might mean to have no corpus callosum.

Three Groups Differ

One group said a definite set of symptoms should be produced by the absence. A second group said there would have to be malfunctions of brain and nervous system but they didn't know what the malfunctions might be. The third group said if the lack of this brain part contaminated brain function, the contamination was not detectable.

Drs. Slager, Kelly, and Wagner sided with the third group. "The function of the corpus callosum is apparently such that an adult can well live without

this structure, compensating for its absence and living a perfectly normal life with normal intelligence and motor performance," they reported.

Mental Ills Traced

They noted that in many previous cases idiocy, mental retardation, epilepsy, inability to concentrate, and disturbed nerve functioning, have gone along with the lack of a corpus callosum.

These, they suggested, were due to other defects in brain and other nervous structure that were "associated" with the absence of the part but were not due to the part being absent.

Dr. Wagner is professor of neuropathology, University of Maryland School of Medicine. Drs. Slager and Kelly are pathologists at Sinai Hospital, Baltimore. They reported to the New England Journal of Medicine.

Nothing Worse Seen For Wall Street Than Consolidation Period

By ELMER C. WALZER
United Press Financial Editor

New York—Except for the bears, the financial district sees nothing worse for the stock market just now than a further period of consolidation laying the base for a new attempt to scale the record highs.



Edson Gould, commentator for Arthur Wiesenberger & Co., sees two things in the market's favor—the calendar and inflation—and two things against it—money and bonds.

This is a month when prices usually rise. Industrials have risen in 41 of the past 60 years during July. And inflation is supposed to be on the side of common stocks which are supposed to rise along with the cost of living.

Money Guides Destiny

Money rates bother Wall Street even though the stock market is almost a cash affair. Money guides the destiny of business and it has a big influence on bonds. Right now bond yields are very high and at their levels make for competition against stocks.

Thus the market might be said to be caught between the jaws of a vise, holding it steady—one jaw the inflation factor, and the other tight money with its influence on bonds.

The big problem is to pick the right stocks, perhaps a Lukens Steel or a Haver Industries.

The advice on this subject are there but they don't give the formula for doing the trick. "This is the time to be an old isolationist in securities," says

S. B. Lurie, analyst for Josephthal & Co.

"Find a new key to market profits," says Gerald M. Loeb, a senior partner of E. F. Hutton & Co.

Subject To Guess Work

"Concentrate only on those issues with a clear and predictable upward earnings trend," says Elmer Shankland, economist for Investors Advisory Institute.

"Cash reserves should be employed sparingly and then confined to stocks with exceptional promise," according to Standard & Poor's.

"Interjection once again of the so-called sentiment factor makes any immediate appraisal subject to considerable guess work," says W. J. Denman, analyst for Shearson, Hammill & Co.

Nobody says the market is going to pieces or that it is a bear market.

The Fitch Survey believes the market is consolidating a base from which a worthwhile rally could develop, and it is suggesting that the rails might soon get into action on the upside.

Maj. Eblen Assigned Commanding Officer Job

Maj. Thomas H. Eblen, whose parents live in Medford, was recently assigned commanding officer of Cadet Company D of the Reserve Officer Training corps general military science summer camp at Ft. Devens, Mass.

During the academic year, Major Eblen is an associate professor of military science and tactics at Yale university. Previous to this assignment he was connected with S-2 corps artillery.

He was born in Baker, Ore., was president of the student body at Baker High school in 1938 and graduated from Oregon State college in 1943.

Record Number Waiting Weekly Jobless Checks

Salem—A record number of claimants are waiting to draw weekly unemployment compensation checks that will average \$2.50 higher than ever before, according to the Unemployment Compensation Commission.

As the 1937-38 benefit year opened this week, more than 7,000 workers had filed transitional claims coming directly from the 1936-37 benefit period just ending, while several thousand others are putting in new claims.

About 63 per cent of the better-paid covered workers will get higher weekly payments as a result of amendments to the law made by the recent Legislature.

The new maximum for a week of unemployment is \$40 against \$35 formerly. The minimum remains at \$15 and a few hundred persons with low wage credits will be unable to qualify for this amount under the revised schedule. Payments are expected to average \$32 a week against \$29.50 last year.

Other Changes Listed

Other legislative changes taking effect include abolition of the forfeiture clause imposed in 1935 and the removal of deductions for federal social security payments. Workers over 65 will be required to prove their attachment to the labor market, however the commission said.

Nearly 22,000 workers newly covered by unemployment insurance as a result of the 1935 amendment will be eligible for benefits for the first time.

Reserves of the commission declined more than \$5 million during the past year to about \$44,600,000 despite increased contributions from employers. Benefits passed \$24 million, comparing with \$17,450,000 in taxes, while federal interest and payments under the Reed act made up some of the difference.

JAPANESE PAINTER DIES

Tokyo—A Japanese painter, 83, dean of Japanese painters, died Sunday at his home in Mitake, near Tokyo.

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Health Department Seeks Illness Reports

The Jackson county department of health is requesting reports of any suspicious food poisoning cases which have occurred recently.

During the Lion's convention, last week reports were received of numerous food poisoning illnesses. The health department is attempting to find out how many people were affected and at what hour, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

For the week ending June 28, 25 cases of measles in Medford were reported to the health department, according to Dr. Merkel.

Other communicable diseases reported last week were chicken pox nine, Medford eight and Ashland one; whooping cough five, Medford; pneumonia two, Ashland and Medford; influenza two, Medford; and measles 11, Ashland eight, and Shady Cove, Prospect and Eagle Point, all one.

RETIRED ENGINEER DIES

New York—John C. Riedel, 84, retired chief engineer of the city Board of Estimate, died Monday night.

Blue Cross Installs Private Wire System

Portland—The Blue Cross inaugurated here recently the first international private-wire communications system for use in reporting admissions of hospital patients. The Blue Cross is the nonprofit hospital service plan.

The local plan, Northwest Hospital Service in Portland, was one of 86 to become interconnected by telegraphic communications with cities from coast to coast and from Canada to Puerto Rico.

The new communications system will speed up contacting the home plan for verifications of benefits to be received, when Blue Cross subscribers are hospitalized away from home.

Medford Woman Gets Service Recognition

Mrs. Blanche Powell, 920 Barnett rd., Medford, recently won a Solid Gold Honor Emblem by The Reader's Digest, in recognition of service as a subscription representative of the magazine.

The emblems are awarded to only three in every thousand Digest representatives. The Digest, as part of its 35th anniversary commemoration, is awarding them to those who have represented the magazines in their communities for 20 to 25 years and who have secured 20 subscriptions in the past year.

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